

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-11 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 is amended to correct a typographical error. Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for reasons described herein); (b) does not raise any issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) does not present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment and remarks are necessary and were not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,050,218 to Ikeda in view of the Background of the Invention discussed in Ikeda (hereinafter "the Background"). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action correctly notes that Ikeda does not teach the concept of processing dictionaries of a plurality of countries including the means of storing, selecting and recognizing. As such, Ikeda does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed storing means, selecting means or recognizing means set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, Ikeda does not disclose, teach or suggest the method set forth in claim 2 including storing dictionaries of a plurality of countries and recognition procedures of a plurality of countries, selecting one of the dictionaries and one of the recognition procedures and performing recognition processing.

The Office Action relies upon the Background for allegedly teaching these deficiencies. The Background, however, merely discloses "an address description generally contains a multiplicity of words for address information, such as country, state, prefecture, city, town, village, avenue, street, lot numbers, company, building, etc." There is no disclosure of dictionaries of a plurality of countries. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of a recognition procedure of a plurality of countries. These two claimed features are clearly absent from the Background. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the device of Ikeda in the manner suggested in the Office Action. The Background does not teach or suggest such a modification. Accordingly, the combination of Ikeda and

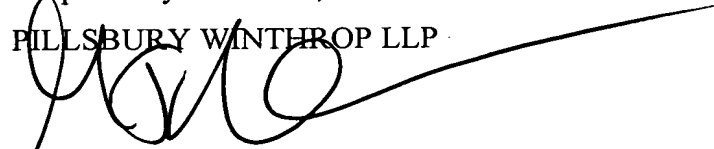
the Background does not render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 or 2. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon this combination are respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Ikeda and the Background in view of Yui. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 4 and 8-11 depend from claim 1, discussed above, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, Yui does not disclose, teach or suggest any of the deficiencies in Ikeda and/or the Background. Yui discloses a mail processing system for processing mail with address information. The processing system includes an address information storage section 23 that stores address information. Yui contains no disclosure of storing dictionaries of a plurality of countries of a recognition procedure of a plurality of countries. Accordingly, the combination of Yui and Ikeda does not render obvious the subject matter of claims 4 and 8-11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon this combination is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims, withdraw the rejections, and pass this application quickly to issue. Should any issues require resolution, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned responsible to discuss and resolve this matter.

If there are any fees due for entry of this submission that are not otherwise accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, with reference to Order No. 008312/0275334.

Respectfully submitted,
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